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PLATE XI. Fig. 11. *Travisia Forbesii*, of the natural size. 12. The same, magnified. 13. The cephalic segments. 14. A side view of a segment from near the middle. 15. A view of a caudal segment on the dorsal aspect. 16. The same on the ventral aspect. 17. The anal segments. 18. A few bristles.

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From Dr. Jacob I learned in November last, that within twenty-five years he has known four bottle-nosed whales to be stranded within a short distance of Dublin—of these, all, except the one particularly described by him, were taken at Howth, near the entrance of the bay: on one occasion, two of them occurred at the same time.

Early in the month of August 1836, two *Hyperoodons* were stranded at Dunany Point, near Dundalk. A friend who saw the specimens when quite recent, described them to me as bottle-nosed whales, and on my sending to him for the purpose of identification outlines of the individuals figured by Dale and Hunter, he stated that the form of Dale's figure represented them well. The larger of these animals was 17 feet in length and  $14\frac{1}{2}$  in girth; the other was somewhat smaller. Having been stranded on the property of his relative, Lady Bellingham, their heads were fortunately reserved for my friend Dr. Bellingham of Dublin. I had lately an opportunity of examining both of these specimens, one of which is in the Museum of the School of Anatomy, Peter-street; the other in that of the Royal Dublin Society. In the latter collection is the head of a second *Hyperoodon*, which in all probability was

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	ft.	in.
Length from occiput to end of snout .....	4	6
Breadth of cranium.....	2	4
Height of ditto.....	2	0

The crania of the four *Hyperoodons* preserved in Dublin are, I conceive, referrible to one species, and are similar to those represented in Cuvier's 'Ossemens Fossiles,' pl. 225. ed. 1834. F. Cuvier's 'Histoire Nat. des Cétacés,' pl. 9; and Bell's 'Brit. Quad.' &c. p. 496. From what has been already published on the subject any further remarks on these specimens seem to be unnecessary. As supplementary to what appears in Mr. Bell's work, it may be added with reference to a specific character about which there has been some obscurity, that in the individuals particularly described by Dr. Jacob and Mr. Thompson of Hull, two teeth were present in the lower jaw; but in neither instance were they apparent in the recent animal, but were detected only when the gum was cut into in the preparation of the skeleton.

Having heard on the 20th September last, that a whale had been captured at Ballyholme Bay, near Bangor (county Down), on the 16th, I immediately set out for the place accompanied by a scientific friend, Mr. Hyndman. A small portion only of the animal then remained on the beach, the head, tail, and entire skin with the blubber having been removed. This whale was seen on the evening of the 16th Sept. in shallow water not far from the shore, and a boat with the small complement of three "hands" gave chase. Fire-arms were discharged at it, but these apparently not having any effect, its assailants bound a rope to a pick-axe and drove this rude but successful substitute for a harpoon into the animal, and about the same time managed to throw a loop of rope round its body above the tail, and thus with some little difficulty brought it captive to the shore. Its length was stated to have been 24 feet, the breadth of tail 6, the girth at the thickest part perhaps from 18 to 20 feet; the weight was estimated at about 5 tons.

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
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To the intelligent farmer whose property this whale became, I showed all the figures of *Cetaceae* in Mr. Bell's work, when he at once, from the narrow elongated snout, and head arising abruptly from it, identified the specimen with the *Hyperoodon*, objecting only to the snout not being represented so long comparatively as in the real animal. To another respectable farmer who had got its head, I exhibited these figures, and he also immediately singled out the *Hyperoodon*, considering the figure of Dale's specimen as more characteristic of the general form of the animal than that of Hunter's; the tail of this latter however being the better liked. The gape or opening of the mouth was remarked to be thus  or "like the letter *f*"—teeth none—the snout shaped like a bottle: it was similarly described by our first informant. In a newspaper paragraph


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In connexion with the occurrence of this *Hyperoodon* on the coast of Down, a novel and highly interesting fact is to be recorded—that there evidently was a migration or simultaneous movement of these *Cetaceæ* towards the British shores during the last autumn, several individuals having within a very few weeks been obtained in England and Scotland, as well as Ireland; but all upon a limited range of coast bounding the Irish sea and its vicinity. The first capture known to me is that of the individual already recorded. In the ‘Northern Whig’ published at Belfast on the 26th Sept. it was stated, that—“A bottle-nosed whale, 20 feet long, was last week left on the beach at Flimby near Cockermouth.” In the ‘Belfast News-letter’ of Oct. 1, appeared the following notice—“A whale captured near Liverpool.—On Tuesday last, a whale was left by the receding tide on East Hoyle bank and speedily captured by the fishermen. Its length is 24 feet; its girth round the centre of the body 13 feet\*.” Although this is not called the bottle-nosed species, it seems to me a fair presumption so to consider the specimen, as its dimensions accord with those of the other individuals taken about the same time, and of which one was obtained on the coast of the adjacent county of Cumberland. In the ‘Belfast Commercial Chronicle’ of Oct. 21, was this paragraph, copied from the Stranraer Advertiser:—

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In connexion with the occurrence of this *Hyperoodon* on the coast of Down, a novel and highly interesting fact is to be recorded—that there evidently was a migration or simultaneous movement of these *Cetaceæ* towards the British shores during the last autumn, several individuals having within a very few weeks been obtained in England and Scotland, as well as Ireland; but all upon a limited range of coast bounding the Irish sea and its vicinity. The first capture known to me is that of the individual already recorded. In the ‘Northern Whig’ published at Belfast on the 26th Sept. it was stated, that—“A bottle-nosed whale, 20 feet long, was last week left on the beach at Flimby near Cockermouth.” In the ‘Belfast News-letter’ of Oct. 1, appeared the following notice—“A whale captured near Liverpool.—On Tuesday last, a whale was left by the receding tide on East Hoyle bank and speedily captured by the fishermen. Its length is 24 feet; its girth round the centre of the body 13 feet\*.” Although this is not called the bottle-nosed species, it seems to me a fair presumption so to consider the specimen, as its dimensions accord with those of the other individuals taken about the same time, and of which one was obtained on the coast of the adjacent county of Cumberland. In the ‘Belfast Commercial Chronicle’ of Oct. 21, was this paragraph, copied from the Stranraer Advertiser:—

“*Capture of Whales in Lochryan.*—On Tuesday morning last, 15th of October†, a very unusual appearance presented itself in Kirkcolm. Two monsters of the deep, of the bottle-

\* In connexion with this paragraph it was observed—“On Friday two young whales were got in the Clyde, the one on the beach at Roseneath, the other above Dumbarton or West Ferry.” Unfortunately no particulars are given that would lead to a knowledge of the species. About the same time it was mentioned in the newspapers, that a whale proceeding southwards had passed close to one of the packets plying between Holyhead and Dublin.

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nosed description of whale, had come round the Scaur and embayed themselves; the receding tide swept its treacherous waters from under them, and finding themselves grounded, their mighty exertions were truly terrific, yet unavailing for their extrication. Mr. Robertson of Clendry was the first who took notice of the errant strangers, and arming himself and retainers with pitchforks and knives, repaired to the scene of action, and commenced the terrible onslaught. The dying agonies of the mighty monsters were truly tremendous. Desperate from the repeated thrusts of the opponents, and from their inextricable position, their powerful tails were wrought with astonishing effect. The water (of which there was yet a quantity around them) was lashed into foam and agitation, the crested waves stretching to an incredible distance, while high in air the water ascended in one unbroken sheet. From their blow-holes the crimsoned water was sent in a jet, imposingly grand, to a great height. After similar and protracted writhings, with a kind of snort or roar, their fury subsided, and in a short time all was still. They were towed to the shore amidst the gaze of numerous and wonder-stricken spectators, a large number of whom arrived hourly to inspect them. A number of men was then employed to cut off the blubber, of which there were thirteen barrels, loading five carts. The dimensions of the largest fish was 24 feet 4 inches in length, and 16 feet at the thickest part in circumference; the smaller one about 16 feet long, and thick in proportion. The tail of the largest was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet in breadth."

It is very probable that other paragraphs to the same effect may have appeared in the newspapers, especially as those here introduced I observed merely on a casual perusal of some of those published in a provincial town. It is rarely that such notices are of any service to the naturalist, but the very peculiar form of the head of the animal under consideration (whence it has received the name of *Bottle-nosed Whale*) taken in connexion with the dimensions stated, leaves no doubt in any instance here quoted that the *Hyperoodon* is alluded to. Were the size of the individual described about *one half* of what is reported, then would there be a doubt whether the captives might not have been the *Bottle-nosed Dolphin*



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(*Delphinus Tursio*, Fabr.), a much smaller species, having the snout prolonged somewhat like that of the *Hyperoodon*, and which is occasionally taken on the British coast.

The three *Hyperoodons* recorded to have occurred on the English shores appeared singly. The two particularly described by M. Baussard\* were taken in company at Honfleur, and considered a mother and her young—the one was 23, the other 12 feet in length. Of the seven individuals captured on the Irish coast, they on two occasions appeared in pairs; and in one of the three instances here copied from newspapers, two of these whales were secured at the same time. It would be interesting to know whether those which have so appeared were male and female—at all events it would seem that the species is not gregarious.

So very little of the history of the *Hyperoodon* is known, that it is hoped even the few particulars here recorded may prove an acceptable contribution.

XLV.—*New Orchidaceæ*. By PROFESSOR LINDLEY.

HABENARIA (A. § 1. xx. b.) *setifera*; foliis ensiformibus carinatis erectis apice incurvis setiferis, caule foliato 1—2-floro, bracteis inflatis ovario longipedunculato brevioribus, petalis bipartitis: laciniâ anteriore lineari posterioris longitudine, labelli tripartiti laciniis linearibus carnis intermediâ longiore, calcare pendulo clavato pedunculo subæquali.—*Mexico*, Ad Choapam, inter gramina, Junio, Hartweg.

A plant allied to *H. macroceras*, of which it has much the habit.

PLATANThERA (§ 1. a.) *limosa*; caule folioso, foliis ensiformibus erectis, racemo laxo multifloro, bracteis striatis acutis floribus brevioribus, petalis ovatis sepalisque obtusis, labello lineari convexo obtuso labello filiformi pendulo pluries brevior.—*Mexico*, In paludibus, Anganguco, juxta Asoleadero, Sept. Hartweg.

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